

rural strategic planning grants. Without a sound public and municipal infrastructure, our rural communities can have no economic base. Without funds for long-term planning and implementation, even the soundest of public infrastructures goes to waste. These two matters fit together for the benefit of our rural communities. I support the Farm Security Act, in part, because of the investment that it provides in these areas.

Finally, I am supportive of this Farm Bill because it recognizes the important connections between American agricultural producers and struggling working Americans who work so hard to put food on the table. This bill makes important investments in the Food Stamp Program that will make the program more user friendly both for those who utilize the Food Stamp Program and for those who administer it. I am especially proud of the measures that this bill takes to support working families who struggle in the low-wage sector of the economy. No longer is it enough just to have a job. In too many cases, a job isn't a ticket out of poverty but simply the maintenance of it. We must do more to support those working families who abide by the rules by ensuring that their children will not go to bed hungry.

This is not to say that I do not have reservations with the bill, some of them serious. In fact there are a number of areas where I believe that we can and should improve upon the bill reported out by the House of Representatives on Friday, October 5.

First, we must do more to pay attention to the needs of small, middle-income, and disadvantaged farmers. It is no secret that US farm policy has long favored large producers who are both politically and economically connected to the agricultural community. However, this trend has grown even more pronounced in the years since passage of the "Freedom to Farm" bill in 1996. A recent report from the General Accounting Office found that the vast majority of US farm payments go to large producers of a small segment of commodities that are grown primarily in the nation's heartland. This must change. A farm bill should benefit all producers, large and small, in California, in Nebraska, and in North Carolina.

We have done an especially poor job of providing assistance to low and medium-income farmers, producers of specialty crops, and disadvantaged and minority farmers. As the Farm Bill moves forward, we must do more to treat all farmers equitably. Such an effort should involve increased outreach to small and minority farmers and equitable distribution of farm payments, geographically, by farm size, and by commodity type. If we do not accomplish this, we are negligent in our responsibility to producers of all sizes and types.

Finally, I would like to express my disappointment that this bill does not do more for the minority-serving colleges and research institutions. The minority-serving institutions have long played a positive role in advancing the interests of not only the minority agricultural community, but of American agriculture as a whole. The minority-serving institutions, even more than other institutions, are strategically placed to ensure that the American agricultural community enters the 21st century a diverse and vibrant one.

However, the minority-serving institutions have long suffered from lack of resources and historic inequities in research and development funding. As a result, these institutions have fared poorly in competitively awarded research grants. For example, a cursory examination of the grants awarded under the National Research Initiative reveals that, fiscal year 1999, the 1890s obtained just one half of one percent of total funding. Clearly, this situation warrants closer examination and amelioration.

This Farm Bill does nothing to change that situation and I will continue to work to see that it does. The current bifurcation between the mainstream land-grant institutions and the minority-serving institutions is unacceptable and it must change.

The burden now lies squarely with the Senate to draft their version of the Farm Bill. I look forward to their efforts and to working with them to achieve a final product which is not only fair to American farmers, but to all of the other myriad interests that this Congress must represent with the Farm Bill.

MEMORIAL FOR THE HEROES OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the horror, pain and anger of the catastrophe of the World Trade Center Towers on September 11th defy description in words. Nevertheless, in memory of the thousands who died, poets, musicians and artists of all kinds must make the effort to express our sorrow, appreciation and hope. The following RAP poem is one of the numerous attempts to call forth hope out of this unprecedented devastation.

TOWERS OF FLOWERS

Pyramid for our age
Funeral pyre
Souls on fire;
Monumental Massacre
Mound of mourning
Futures burning
Desperate yearning
Excruciating churning;
For all the hijacked years
Cry rivers,
Feel the death chill
Iceberg of frozen
Bloody tears;
Defiant orations of Pericles
Must now rise
Out of the ashes
Jefferson's profound principles
Will outlive the crashes.
Funeral pyre
Souls on fire
Lincoln's steel will
In the fiery furnace;
Mound of mourning
Futures burning
Desperate yearning;
Thousands of honored dead
Perished in pain
But not in vain,
Martin Luther Kings courage
Will scrub the stain;
A new nation
Will overcome its rage

And for peace
March forever fully engaged.
Souls on fire
Funeral pyre
Pyramid for our age;
O say can you see
The monument of towers
Ashes hot with anger
Mountain of sacred flowers
Under God
Blooming with new powers.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DONALD R. MYERS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Mr. Myers was born and raised in Martins Ferry, Ohio; and,

Whereas, Mr. Myers is one of six Manpower Specialists in the United States; and

Whereas, his expertise has contributed to the creation of the Ohio Valley Plaza, Fox Commerce Industrial Park, Belmont Correctional Institution, Ohio Carings Company, Mayflower Vehicle Systems, Lesco, and Fox Run Hospital; and

Whereas, Mr. Myers served 16 years as the Director of Development for Martins Ferry, Ohio, before being named Assistant Director of Belmont County in 1987, and then in 1990 serving as Belmont's Development Director; and

Whereas, Mr. Myers currently serves as the President of Eastern Ohio Development Alliance and Ohio Mid-Eastern Government's Association;

Therefore, I invite my colleagues to join with me and the citizens of Ohio in thanking and recognizing Donald R. Myers for his countless years of service to the state of Ohio.

IN HONOR OF THE MIDWEST ASSO- CIATION FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Midwest Association for Latin American Studies, MALAS, on their 51st Annual Conference at Cleveland State University.

The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies was originally organized as an interdisciplinary program designed to encourage students and practitioners of Latin American Studies to come together for formal events and informal networking. To accomplish this objective, MALAS organizes national and international annual conferences that address the many themes reflected in the diverse interests of the membership. This association provides for tremendous opportunities for those studying Latin America and a great way for these people to come together and truly discuss issues.